Usage of coal dust

*217. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the coal based power plants discharge large quantities of dust which besides creating ecological problems has also been creating problem of proper storage;

(b) what is the approximate quantity of coal dust that has accumulated so far;

(c) whether this dust can be utilised for any useful purposes like making bricks etc; and

(d) whether any R & D work has been done in this area so that millions of tons of coal dust is put to some constructive use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (d) In a coal based power plant, coal is used for the boilers in a pulverised form and the coal dust discharged is not in large quantities. However, coal based power stations generate substantial quantities of ash, a major portion of which is in the form of fly ash. As per the latest available technology, fly ash is collected by highly efficient electrostatic precipitators to prevent pollution and emission from the chimney.

The total quantity of ash accumulated so far cannot be estimated as it is generated at several locations under different conditions and large areas of low lying land have been reclaimed after use as ash disposal areas. The ash produced at the coal based power stations can be utilised for several purposes such as the manufacture of bricks, pozzolanic portland cement and road building and construction materials. Research and development work has been undertaken for the utilisation of the ash produced at coal based power stations.

Grant of Interim Relief to employees of public sector enterprises

*218. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement was arrived at on the 8th September, 1987 between the Bureu of Public Enterprises and the Central Labour Unions regarding the grant of Interim Relief to the employees who are governed by wage settlements in public sector enterprises; and

(b) if so, whether the Uranium Corporation of India Limited, Jaduguda, Bihar, has implemented the same, if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Uranium Corporation of India has paid Interim Relief to its non-executive employees.

Import of crude oil and petroleum products

*219. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated gross import of crude oil and petroleum products for the year 1988-89;

(b) what were the actual gross imports of crude oil and petroleum products during the year 1987-88;

(c) whether there has been an increase in the imports;

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) how does the increased production of crude and natural gas in the country reflect in view of the

increased imports of crude and petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (d) As per present estimates, the gross import of crude oil and petroleum products for the year 1988-89 would be 18.06 million tonnes and 7.15 million tonnes respectively. The corresponding figures for 1987-88 were 18.36 million tonnes and 4.28 million tonnes respectively (Provisional). The overall imports during the current year are higher due to increase in demand.

(e) The above estimates take into account the increased crude production and also the substitution by Natural Gas of the demand for certain liquid petroleum fuels.

Closure of Ceramic industries in Gujarat

*220. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

SHRI JITENDRABHAI LABHSHANKER BHATT:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 800 ceramic industries in Gujarat have been closed due to shortage of 'A' Grade coal; and

(b) if so, what steps are being contemplated to be taken by Government to help the ceramic industry, which is in dire need of good quality coal?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Indigenous output of Fibre Optics Cables

1260. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's estimate of likely demand in India for Fibre Optics Cables, year-wise, for the next three years;

(b) the names of public sector and joint sector units which have been licensed so far to indigenously manufacture this new type of telecommuications cable and their licensed capacities;

(c) the progress made in implementing Industrial Licences and the likely dates of production by these units;

(d) whether any additional public sector/joint sector units will be licensed to indigenously manufacture Fibre Optics Cables; and

(e) if so, what are the names of public sector/joint sector undertakings whose applications are under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (e) The likely demand for Optical Fibre Cables has been estimated at 16,500 cable Kms (164000 Fibre Kms) for the period 1987-90. Messrs Madhya Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd. and Hindustan Cables Ltd. have been granted Letters of Intent for the manufacture of 20,000 Kms and 40,000 Kms of Optical Fibre Cables per annum respectively. Both the units are at various stages of implementation. Since the approved capacity for the manufacture of this item is considered adequate to meet the projected demand fresh capacity is not being encouraged in this field at present.